

defining a set of graphic images, wherein each graphic image represents a range of values;

generating a first surface map with (1) graphic images, representing attributes associated with each record in the set, arranged along a first dimension, and (2) the records, represented by a collection of graphic images, arranged along a second dimension;

generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set; receiving input from a user selecting a subset of the records from the first surface map; and

altering the second visual representation to highlight the selected subset.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the second visual representation is a galaxy view.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising analyzing an index to determine if one or more of the records in the selected subset is shown in the second visual representation.

12. (Amended) A computer-implemented method of interactively displaying records and their corresponding attributes, comprising:

providing a surface map representing a set of records;

linking the surface map to a set of views, wherein at least one of the views comprises a visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set;

Sub B1
A1
cont.

A2

A3
Sub B1

A4
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receiving an input signal selecting a portion of the surface map; and
indicating, in a view linked to the surface map, at least one of the records
corresponding to the selected portion.

13. (Amended) A method of interactively displaying a set of records and their
corresponding attributes, comprising:
defining a set of graphic images, wherein each graphic image represents a range
of values;
generating a three-dimensional surface map with (1) each record in the set
arranged along a first dimension, (2) graphic images, representing attributes associated
with the records, arranged along a second dimension, and (3) the values associated
with the attributes arranged along a third dimension;
generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set;
receiving input from a user selecting a subset of the records on the surface map;
analyzing an index to determine if the selected subset is shown in the second
visual representation; and
altering the second visual representation based on the input, when the selected
subset is shown in the second visual representation.

16. (Amended) An apparatus for interactively displaying a set of records and
their associated attributes, comprising:
at least one memory having program instructions; and

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at least one processor configured to execute the program instructions to perform the operations of:

defining a set of graphic images, wherein each graphic image represents a range of values;

generating a first surface map with the records of the set arranged along a first dimension and graphic images, representing attributes associated with the records, arranged along a second dimension;

generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set;

receiving input from a user selecting a subset of the records from the first surface map; and

analyzing an index to determine if one or more records in the selected subset are shown in another view; and

altering the second visual representation based on the input, when one or more records in the selected subset are shown in another view.

17. (Amended) An apparatus for interactively displaying a set of records and their associated attributes, comprising:

means for defining a set of graphic images, wherein each graphic image represents a range of values;

means for generating a first surface map with the records of the set arranged along a first dimension and graphic images, representing attributes associated with the records, arranged along a second dimension;

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